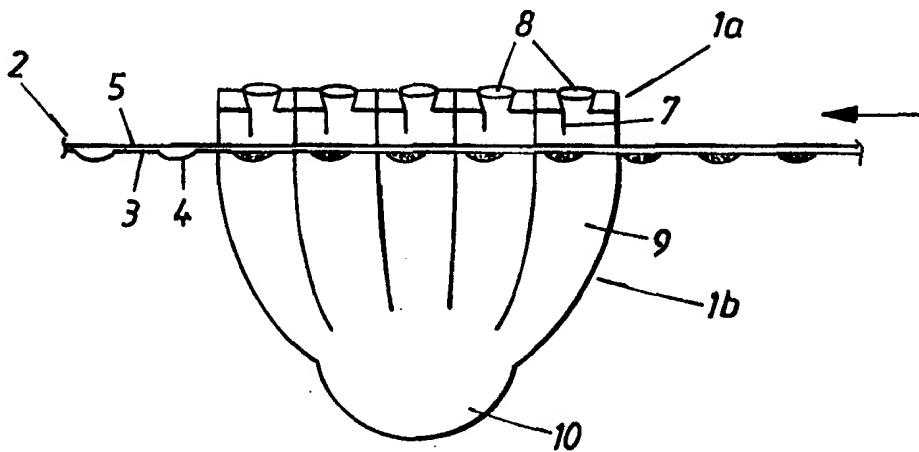




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61M 15/00, A61K 38/28		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/34664
			(43) International Publication Date: 13 August 1998 (13.08.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE98/00132		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 29 January 1998 (29.01.98)			
(30) Priority Data: 9700424-6 7 February 1997 (07.02.97) SE			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ASTRA AKTIEBOLAG (publ) [SE/SE]; S-151 85 Södertälje (SE).			
(72) Inventor; and		Published	
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WIDERSTRÖM, Carin [SE/SE]; Astra Draco AB, P.O. Box 34, S-221 00 Lund (SE).		With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	
(74) Agent: ASTRA AKTIEBOLAG; Patent Dept., S-151 85 Södertälje (SE).			

(54) Title: POWDER INHALER



(57) Abstract

A dry powder inhaler, a blister pack and a method of dispensing powder from a blister pack, the blister pack comprising a plurality of blisters, each containing less than a clinical effective dose required of said powder according to the particular one or more substances contained in the powder, the inhaler comprising an inhalation path and dosing means for opening the blisters and releasing the powder into the inhalation path for inhalation by the user, the dosing means comprising opening means suitable for simultaneously opening a predetermined plurality of the blisters such that, for each use of the inhaler, the actual dose administered is determined by the number of blisters which are opened by the opening means, the method comprising opening blisters and releasing powder into a delivery channel, the number of blisters being opened being predetermined according to the desired dose of powder.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon			PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakhstan	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia				

POWDER INHALER

The present invention relates to a powder inhaler, a blister pack and a method of dispensing powder. More particularly, it relates to a means and method by which a patient 5 may inhale a variable dose of medicament.

It is known that powder containing a medicament may be inhaled for the treatment of certain conditions, such as asthma. Various systems have been proposed for storing and administering the powder.

US 5469843 discloses a system in which a tape is coated with the powder and a sprung 10 hammer strikes the back of the tape to release the powder. WO 94/12230 discloses a device in which an elongate blister pack is successively advanced through the device and in which means are provided for opening a blister and releasing a dose of powder. EP-A-0237507 discloses a device having a bulk powder reservoir from which doses of powder are successively transferred into an inhalation channel.

15 These various systems all have their own particular advantages and disadvantages, but these will not be considered here.

A disadvantage in common with all of these previous systems is that, within each type of system, it is necessary to provide a wide selection of different inhalers catering for users with different needs and for medicaments requiring different doses.

20 According to the present invention, there is provided a dry powder inhaler for use with a blister pack having a plurality of blisters, each blister containing a predetermined quantity of powder, the inhaler comprising:

an inhalation path; and

25 dosing means for opening the blisters and releasing the powder into the inhalation path for inhalation by the user; wherein

the dosing means comprises opening means suitable for simultaneously opening a predetermined plurality of said blisters such that, for each use of the inhaler, the actual dose administered is determined by the number of previously unopened blisters which are opened by the opening means.

The dosing means may comprise a control means for controlling the opening means to open a desired number of the blisters. Alternatively, for each use of the inhaler, the opening means may operate to open all of the predetermined plurality of blisters, the blister pack being positioned in the dosing means according to the required dose, such that the actual 5 dose administered is determined by the number of unopened blisters on which the opening means operates.

In conjunction with this inhaler, the present invention also provides a blister pack comprising a plurality of blisters, each containing a predetermined quantity of powder for inhalation wherein each blister contains less than the clinical effective dose of said powder 10 according to the particular one or more substances contained in the powder.

Thus, according to the present invention there is also provided a method of dispensing powder from a blister pack having a plurality of blisters, each blister containing a predetermined quantity of powder, the method comprising:

opening blisters of the blister pack so as to release the powder contained in said blisters 15 into a delivery channel; and

choosing the number of blisters to be opened so as to provide the powder from said number of blisters in the delivery channel at the same time, the number being determined according to the quantity of powder required to be released into the delivery channel.

The present invention gives rise to many advantages.

Previously, for any one particular medicament, it was necessary to produce a selection 20 of blister packs having respective blisters containing different doses. For instance, one blister pack would be produced having blisters containing the powder dose for an adult and another blister pack would be produced having blisters containing the powder dose for children. Clearly, the need to produce different types of blister pack adds to their cost of 25 production. The present invention allows a single type of blister pack to be used for users with different needs. For instance, for the example given above, a child could use a dose of three blisters whereas an adult could use a dose of five blisters.

Similarly, while previous inhalers require a user to inhale two or more separate doses to receive an extra large dose, the present invention allows the dosage to be varied with a 30 single inhalation.

Another advantage is that only one design of inhaler need be constructed to cater for a variety of blister packs respectively containing many different types of medicament. Any variations required in the dosing between the various different types of medicament may be easily accomplished by the inhaler, which will merely open the required number of blisters.

5 The present invention allows additional flexibility which has not before been contemplated. In particular, the size of a dose can be varied for each inhalation. This is important for some patients, since their need of medicament can vary, for instance according to the time of day, their body activity or their food intake. In this respect, the present invention is particularly useful in conjunction with antidiabetic substances, such as
10 insulin.

Indeed, according to the present invention, there is also provided a blister pack comprising a plurality of blisters, each containing a predetermined quantity of medicament for inhalation wherein the medicament comprises an antidiabetic medicament.

Medicaments suitable for use with the present invention are any which may be delivered
15 by inhalation. Suitable inhalable medicaments may include for example β₂-adrenoreceptor agonists for example salbutamol, terbutaline, rimiterol, fenoterol, reproterol, adrenaline, dpirbuterol, isoprenaline, orciprenaline, bitolterol, salmeterol, formoterol, clenbuterol, procaterol, broxaterol, picumeterol, TA-2005, mabuterol and the like, and their pharmacologically acceptable esters and salts; anticholinergic bronchodilators for example ipratropium bromide and the like; glucocorticosteroids for example beclomethasone, fluticasone, budesonide, tipredane, dexamethasone, betamethasone, fluocinolone, triamcinolone acetonide, mometasone, and the like, and their pharmacologically acceptable esters and salts; anti-allergic medicaments for example sodium cromoglycate and nedocromil sodium; expectorants; mucolytics; antihistamines; cyclooxygenase inhibitors;
20 leukotriene synthesis inhibitors; leukotriene antagonists, phospholipase-A2 (PLA2) inhibitors, platelet aggregating factor (PAF) antagonists and prophylactics of asthma; antiarrhythmic medicaments, tranquilisers, cardiac glycosides, hormones, antihypertensive medicaments, antidiabetic-, such as insulin, antiparasitic- and anticancer-medicaments, sedatives and analgesic medicaments, antibiotics, antirheumatic medicaments,
25 immunotherapies, antifungal and antihypotension medicaments, vaccines, antiviral
30

medicaments, proteins, polypeptides and peptides for example peptide hormones and growth factors, polypeptides vaccines, enzymes, endorphines, lipoproteins and polypeptides involved in the blood coagulation cascade, vitamins and others, for example cell surface receptor blockers, antioxidants, free radical scavengers and organic salts of N,N'-diacetylcystine.

The present invention will be more clearly understood from the following description, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) illustrate a blister pack according to the present invention;

Figures 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c) illustrate schematically the operation of a first embodiment 10 of the present invention;

Figures 3(a) and (b) illustrate an inhaler embodying the present invention;

Figures 4(a) and (b) illustrate an inhaler embodying the present invention;

Figures 5(a) and (b) illustrate an inhaler embodying the present invention;

Figure 6 illustrates a cross-section of an inhaler according to a first embodiment of the 15 present invention;

Figure 7 illustrates a cross-section of an inhaler according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 8 illustrates a variation of the inhaler of Figure 7; and

Figures 9(a) and 9(b) illustrate alternative blister packs.

Inhalers according to the present invention are preferably to be used with any blister 20 pack containing suitable powder, where each blister contains less than a clinical effective dose of the powder according to the particular medicament contained in the powder such that two or more blisters must be opened to obtain a full dose. However, such inhalers can also be used with blister packs having a clinical effective dose in each blister. Of course, the 25 inhalers would not then be able to administer less than that dose.

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) illustrate a blister pack 2 which is provided as a roll 6. The blister pack is formed from a continuous layer 3 with a series of cavities 4 along its length. Each cavity 4 is filled with a suitable powder and then sealed by a sealing layer 5 which covers the surface of the continuous layer 3. Preferably, perforations exist between each blister, 30 allowing used blisters to be torn off.

The blister pack 2 is inserted into an inhaler 1 as illustrated schematically in Figures 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c).

The inhaler 1 has a first part 1a which functions to open the blisters and a second part 1b which guides air and the powder released from the blisters out of a mouthpiece of the

5 inhaler.

Part 1a of the inhaler 1 is provided with a plurality of cutting means 7 and associated air inlets 8. The cutting means 7 may comprise any suitable means for rupturing the sealing layer 5 of the blister pack 2 and, in some embodiments such as those of Figure 2, for rupturing the lower cavity 4 wall also. In particular, curved or straight blades or pin like members may be used.

In use, with the blister pack 2 inserted in the inhaler 1, the part 1a of the inhaler 1 is moved towards the blister pack such that each of the cutting means 7 ruptures a corresponding blister 4. As illustrated in Figures 2(a), (b) and (c), the cutting means perforate not only the sealing layer 5, but also the continuous layer 3 where it forms the cavities 4. In this way, powder contained in the blisters 4 is released into part 1b of the

15 inhaler 1 below or, at least, is sucked through into part 1b during inhalation by the user.

Part 1b of the inhaler 1 has a series of channels 9 corresponding to the cutting means 7 and air inlets 8 of part 1a. The channels 9 extend to a common inhalation channel 10. Thus, after part 1a of the inhaler 1 has been moved so as to rupture the blisters 4, a user may inhale through the inhaler 1 such that air is drawn through the air inlets 8, picks up powder from the ruptured blisters 4 and passes out of the inhaler via the channels 9 and common inhalation channel 10.

As will be seen by reference to Figure 2(b), if the blister pack 2 is only partly advanced under the cutting means 7 of part 1a of the inhaler 1, when the inhaler 1 is operated, some 25 of the cutting means 7 operate on blisters 4 which have already been ruptured and emptied. In this way, the quantity of powder administered in a single use of the inhaler can be varied.

As mentioned before, the illustrations of Figures 2(a) and (b) are merely schematic and a number of variations are possible.

Firstly, the cutting means 7 need not be provided with individual respective inlets 8, but 30 could be fed with air from a common inlet.

Secondly, the inhaler need not be provided with separate channels 9 and powder from the blisters 4 could move directly into a common inhalation channel.

Thirdly, as illustrated in Figure 2(c), the path of the blister pack 2 need not be straight, but could proceed along a curve.

5 Figures 3(a) and (b) illustrate the basic features of an inhaler such as described above, Figures 3(b) showing a cross-section of the device of Figure 3(a).

The inhaler 1 has a mouthpiece 12, an inlet opening 14 and an opening means 16. The opening means 16 is axially moveable on one end of the inhaler, preferably against the resistance of a spring which is not shown. It includes a plurality of cutting means 7 each for 10 use with a corresponding blister 4. It also includes a plurality of air inlets 8 corresponding to the cutting means 7. The inlet opening 14 may be formed as a plurality of openings, each forming an end of an air inlets 8 or alternatively as a single opening which feeds the air inlets 8.

In use, once the blister pack 2 has been inserted by an appropriate amount the opening 15 means 16 is pushed towards the mouthpiece 12 such that each cutting means 7 cuts through its corresponding blister 4. With the opening means 16 released, the user may then inhale through the mouthpiece 12, drawing air from the air inlets 8 through the blisters 4 so as to pick up powder in the air stream.

Figures 4(a) and (b) illustrate a similar device in which the opening means 16 takes the 20 form of a button on a side face of the inhaler.

As may be seen from the cross-section shown in Figure 4(b), when the button 16 is depressed, the cutting means 7 are directed through the corresponding blisters 4 so as to perforate them. Figure 4(b) is only schematic and a number of preferred features are not illustrated. For instance, it is preferable to seal the button 16 arrangement such that air only 25 enters the inhaler via inlet opening 14. It is also preferable to provide a spring to return the button 16 and cutting means 7 to their original positions.

Another inhaler according to the present invention will now be described with reference to Figures 5(a) and 5(b).

As with the embodiments described above, the inhaler 1 has a mouthpiece 12, an inlet 30 opening 14 and an opening means 16. In use, a blister pack 2 is inserted into the inhaler 1

according to the number of blisters 4 to be used and the opening means 16 is pressed down into the inhaler 1 so as to rupture those blisters. By inhaling through the mouthpiece 12, air is drawn in through inlet 14, picks up powder from the ruptured blisters 4 and is inhaled.

The embodiment of Figures 5(a) and (b) differs from those described above by virtue of
5 the fact that the cutting means 7 only rupture the sealing layer 5 and the air stream is ducted down onto and over the ruptured blisters.

Figure 6 illustrates a cross-section of the embodiment of Figure 5(b) and shows how
the opening means 16 can operate to open a plurality of blisters simultaneously, even those
which have already been opened. An equivalent arrangement can easily be derived for the
10 embodiment of Figure 4(b).

The operation described so far can be considered as a first embodiment of the present
invention. A second embodiment will now be described.

In the second embodiment, rather than the first part 1a of the inhaler 1 operating as a
single unit, it is possible for each of the cutting means 7 (possibly together with their
15 corresponding air inlets 8) to be operated independently. In this way, even when the blister
pack 2 is advanced entirely under part 1a of the inhaler 1 as illustrated in Figure 2(a), it is
still possible to rupture only some of the blisters 4 which are positioned adjacent the cutting
means 7.

Preferably, the blisters 4 which are ruptured are those furthest downstream of the
20 blister pack, such that, after a use, the blister pack may be advanced by the number of
blisters 4 which were ruptured during that use so as to once again arrive at the arrangement
illustrated in Figure 2(a). Preferably, the inhaler 1 is also provided with a mechanism which,
after a number of blisters 4 are ruptured, only allows the blister pack 2 to be advanced by
that number of blisters 4.

25 Figure 7 illustrates a variation of the inhaler of Figure 5(b) which relates to the second
embodiment. As may be seen, the opening means 16 of Figure 6 is replaced by a plurality of
opening means 16. The opening means 16 thus comprises a means for controlling the
number of blisters to be opened. In particular, the number of blisters which are opened is
determined by the number of opening means 16 which are depressed by the user. An
30 equivalent arrangement may easily be derived for the embodiments of Figures 3(a) and 4(a).

Figure 8 illustrates a more sophisticated variation of the inhaler of Figure 7 in which a single opening means 16 is provided.

The inhaler of Figure 8 comprises an additional control means 18 with a slider which indicates the selected dosage and a control mechanism controlled by the slider. By altering 5 the position of the slider, the control mechanism varies the number of the cutting means 7 which are engaged by the opening means 16. In this way, the user only operates one opening means 16, but ruptures the number of blisters 4 required for the particular dose.

The control mechanism may also include a moveable stop or a ratchet mechanism, such 10 that the blister pack 2 can only be inserted to a particular position or advanced by a certain number of positions.

Clearly, a slider 18 can also be incorporated in the embodiments of Figures 3(a), 4(a) and 5(a) so as to control the stop position or advancement amount of the blister pack 2.

The slider can of course be replaced by any other control, such as a rotatable knob.

The devices described so far have only been described with reference to a blister pack 2 which is manually inserted/advanced. However, preferably, when the blister pack 2 is provided as a roll 6 such as illustrated in Figures 1(a) and (b), it is installed into the inhaler as a roll and automatically unwound and advanced through the inhaler. The used length of the blister pack 2 can then either exit the inhaler or be wound inside another portion of the inhaler. In the case of first embodiments such as described with reference to Figures 3 to 6, 20 the blister pack 2 should be advanced under the cutting means so as to provide only as many unopened blisters 4 under the cutting means 7 as required. According to this embodiment, the blister pack 2 may be advanced immediately after the inhaler is used or immediately before its next use. It is advantageous for the blister pack 2 to be advanced immediately before each use, because the number of used blisters which are advanced out of the inhaler 25 corresponds to and gives a visual indication of how many blisters are about to be used. Indeed, if the user leaves those used blisters in place, upon using the inhaler again, there is an indication of how many blisters were used previously. This is particularly advantageous when the user has to take different doses alternately. For instance, to obtain an average dose corresponding to 3½ blisters, a user can alternately use 3 and 4 blisters.

In the case of second embodiments such as described with reference to Figure 7, the blister pack 2 should be advanced by the number of blisters 4 previously used. This can easily be achieved by a mechanical ratchet arrangement, with the dosage being set by the user. Alternatively, a more complex electronic arrangement might be provided with
5 motorised advance of the blister pack and detectors to determine which blisters 4 have been already used.

Where the blister pack is advanced out of the inhaler 1, a cutter, such as a blade may be provided at the exit to facilitate used blisters being removed.

Where a blister pack 2 is to be manually inserted, it may be provided as a straight
10 elongate pack. For first embodiments, the blister pack would be inserted merely as far as necessary, whereas, for second embodiments, it would be fully inserted. According to this arrangement, it is possible to provide an inhaler having only an inlet portion whereby, after each use, the user tears off unused blisters from the end of the blister pack, for instance by use of the previously mentioned perforations. For embodiments of the first type, a moveable
15 stop may then be provided to ensure that the blister pack is not inserted further than necessary.

It should be noted that inhalers embodying the present invention are not limited to use with elongate blister packs as illustrated in Figures 1(a) and (b). Any other layout of blisters may also be used.

20 Figure 9(a) illustrates a blister pack in which blisters are arranged circularly on a disk. With this blister pack, the amount by which the disk is rotated between uses will vary according to the number of blisters ruptured.

Figure 9(b) illustrates a blister pack with blisters arranged across the width of the blister pack as well as along its length. With this blister pack, it is possible that the blister pack is
25 advanced by one row of blisters upon each use, with the dosage administered being controlled according to the number of blisters ruptured across the width of the blister pack.

It is also possible to construct a device which simultaneously accepts two or more blister packs respectively containing different amounts of medicament. In its most straight forward form, the device receives two or more blister pack strips of the type illustrated in
30 Figure 1 and guides them to two parallel sets of cutting means 7 as illustrated in Figures 6

and 7. The user can then individually advance each respective blister pack strip according to the dose required. In particular, when one blister pack strip includes smaller amounts of the medicament than the other strip(s) greater variability may be provided for the administered dose. One blister pack will provide coarse variability and the other blister pack fine variability. Preferably, the device includes a mechanism such that a single operation of the user ruptures blisters of all the strips.

Finally, some consideration should be given to the amount of powder stored in each blister of a blister pack embodying the present invention.

In practice, blister packs are produced having blisters which each contain a clinical effective dose of a particular medicament for any application.

The following medicaments could be administered with the following ranges:

	<u>Compound</u>	<u>Dose range</u>
15	Budesonide	50µg - 1600µg
	Terbutaline	125µg - 12µg
	Formoterol	3µg - 48µg
	Salbutamol	50µg - 6-700µg
	Salmeterol	50µg - 200µg
20	Fluticasone	50mg - 1000mg

The quantity of medicament stored in each blister should therefore be appropriate to provide a reasonable cover over at least central portions of these ranges according to the maximum number of blisters to be opened simultaneously, for instance between 2 and 8.

25 In general, it is proposed that each blister should contain one of 10 - 75%, 20 - 50%, 1/4, 1/3 and 1/2 of the clinical effective dose. It is particularly advantageous to provide fractions of the clinical effective dose, since this makes it easier for a patient to determine how many blisters to dispense.

For medicaments, such as antidiabetic medicaments, where the requirements of a user 30 vary continuously between small doses and relatively large doses, the present invention is

ideal. With an antidiabetic medicament contained in blisters, the dose of that medicament may be varied according to the needs of the patient.

For instance, for insulin, the required dose might vary between 0.1mg (1 unit) and 2.0mg (20 units). Preferably, therefore blisters can be provided containing a suitable quantity of insulin to cover this range or at least a more normal range within it. In this regard, it is proposed to use blisters containing one of 0.05 - 0.15mg, 0.15 - 0.25mg, 0.25 - 0.35mg and 0.35 - 0.45mg ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ units, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ units, $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ units, $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ units). In particular, blisters containing 2 units each would allow a range of 2 to 8 units with only 4 blisters per use.

CLAIMS

1. A dry powder inhaler (1) for use with a blister pack (2) having a plurality of blisters (4), each blister (4) containing a predetermined quantity of powder, the inhaler comprising:

5 an inhalation path (9); and

dosing means (7) for opening the blisters (4) and releasing the powder into the inhalation path (9) for inhalation by the user; wherein

the dosing means (7) comprises opening means (7) suitable for simultaneously opening a predetermined plurality of said blisters (4) such that, for each use of the inhaler, 10 the actual dose administered is determined by the number of previously unopened blisters (4) which are opened by the opening means (7).

2. An inhaler according to claim 1 wherein the dosing means (7) further comprises a control means (16,18) for controlling the opening means (7) to open a desired number of 15 said previously unopened blisters (4).

3. An inhaler according to claim 2 further comprising:

means for advancing the blister pack (2) into the dosing means (7) by an extent corresponding to the number of previously unopened blisters (4) opened during the last use 20 of the inhaler.

4. An inhaler according to claim 1 wherein, for each use of the inhaler, the opening means (7) operates to open all of said predetermined plurality of blisters, the blister pack (2) being positioned in the dosing means (7) according to the required dose such that the actual 25 dose administered is determined by the number of unopened blisters (4) on which the opening means (7) operates.

5. An inhaler according to claim 4 further comprising:

means for advancing the blister pack (2) into the dosing means (7) by an extent 30 corresponding to the number of blisters required to be opened for the desired dose.

6. An inhaler according to claim 4 for use with an elongate blister pack (2) having blisters (4) arranged along its length wherein the dosing means (7) comprises walls defining an aperture into which an end of the blister pack (2) may be inserted, the number of blisters (4) opened by the dosing means (7) being determined by the extent to which the end of the
5 blister pack (2) is inserted.
7. An inhaler according to any one of claims 1 to 5 comprising:
means for storing the blister pack (2,6) within the inhaler (1).
8. An inhaler according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 7 for use with an elongate blister pack (2) having blisters (4) arranged along its length.
10
9. A method of dispensing powder from a blister pack having a plurality of blisters, each blister containing a predetermined quantity of powder, the method comprising:
15 opening blisters (4) of the blister pack (2) so as to release the powder contained in said blisters into a delivery channel (9,10); and
choosing the number of blisters (4) to be opened so as to provide the powder from said number of blisters (4) in the delivery channel (9,10) at the same time, the number being determined according to the quantity of powder required to be released into the delivery
20 channel (9,10).
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of opening includes:
an operating step (7) capable of opening a blister (4) and being performed simultaneously on a plurality of blisters (4); and
25 a selection step to select on which of the opened and unopened blisters (4) of the blister pack (2) the operating step should be performed, such that the actual dose dispensed is determined by the number of unopened blisters which are opened.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of opening includes:
an operating step (7) capable of opening a blister (4); and
a control step (16,18) for controlling the number of blisters (4) on which the
operating step is performed.

5

12. A blister pack (2) comprising a plurality of blisters (4), each containing a
predetermined quantity of powder for inhalation wherein each blister contains less than the
clinical effective dose of said powder according to the particular one or more substances
contained in the powder.

10

13. A blister pack according to claim 12 wherein each blister (4) contains one of 10 -
75%, 20 - 50%, 1/4, 1/3 and 1/2 of said clinical effective dose required of said powder
according to the particular one or more substances contained in the powder.

15

14. A blister pack (2) comprising a plurality of blisters (4), each containing a
predetermined quantity of medicament for inhalation wherein the medicament comprises
an antidiabetic medicament.

15. A blister pack (2) according to claim 14 wherein the medicament comprises insulin.

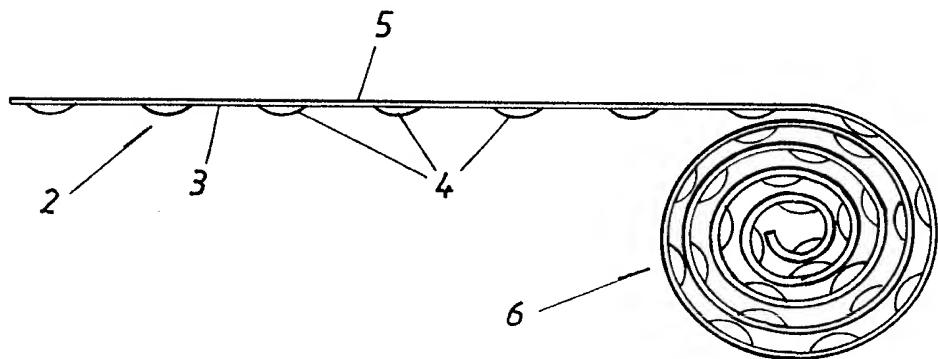
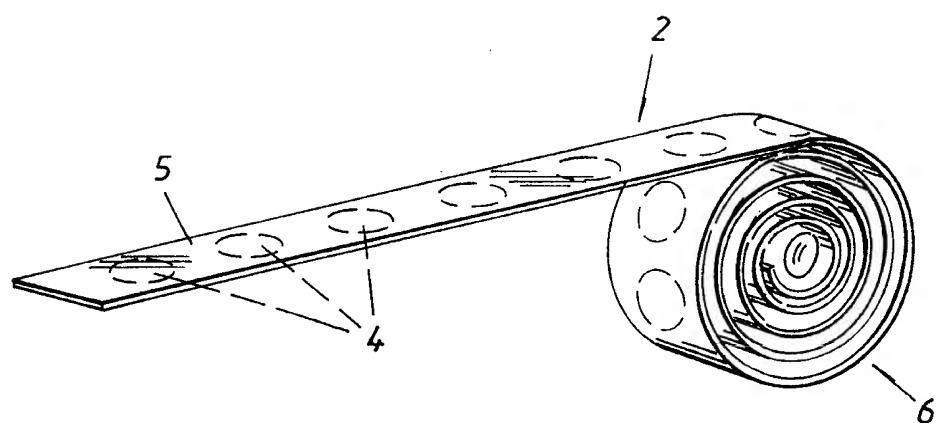
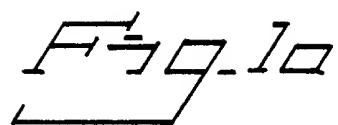
20

16. A blister pack (2) according to claim 14 or 15 wherein each blister (4) contains less
than 1mg of said medicament.

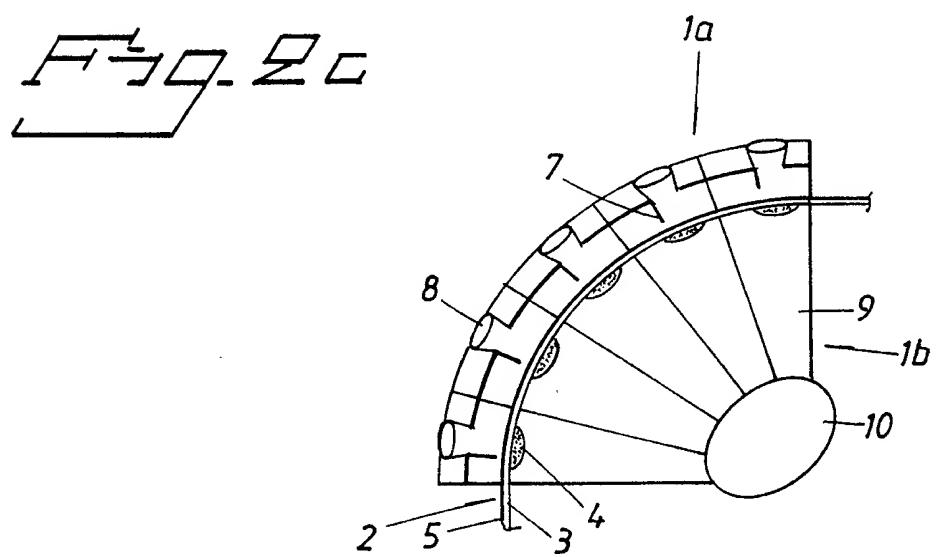
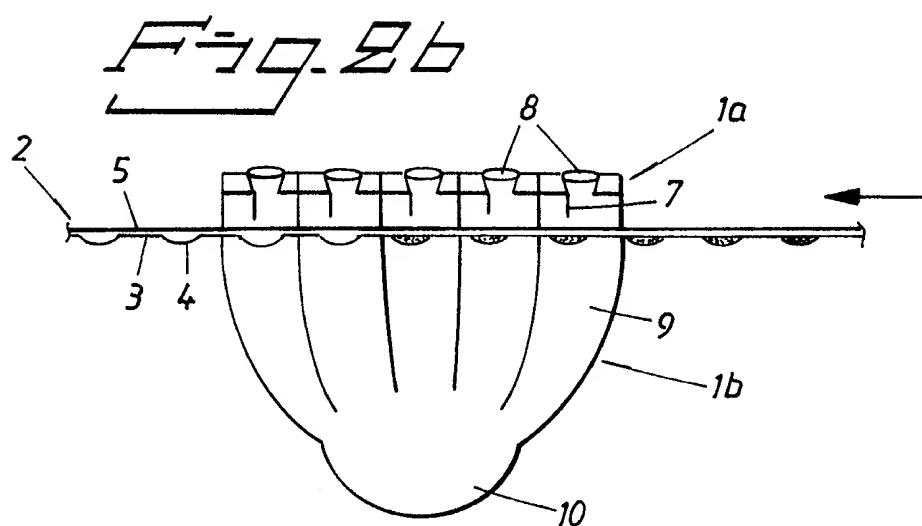
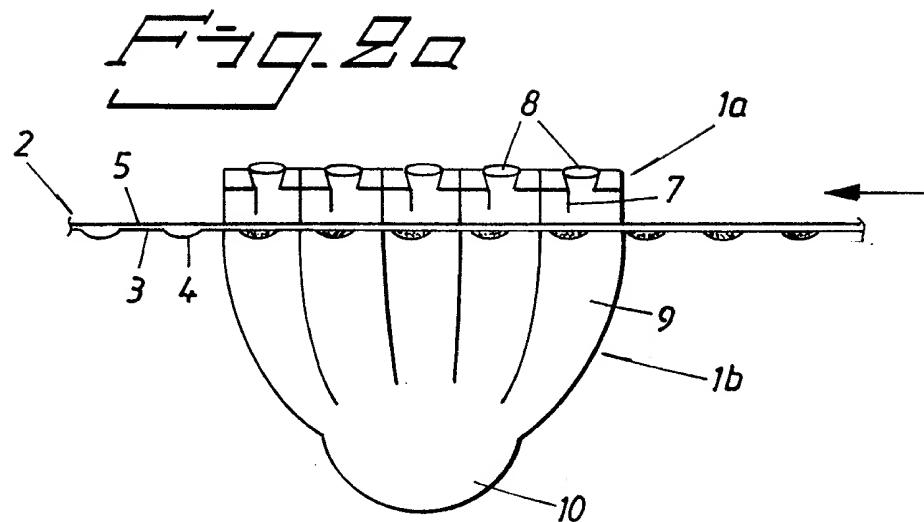
25

17. A blister pack (2) according to claim 14, 15 or 16 wherein each blister (4) contains
one of 0.05 - 0.15mg, 0.15 - 0.25mg, 0.25 - 0.35mg, 0.35 - 0.45mg and 0.45 - 0.55mg of
said medicament.

1 / 6



2 / 6



3 / 6

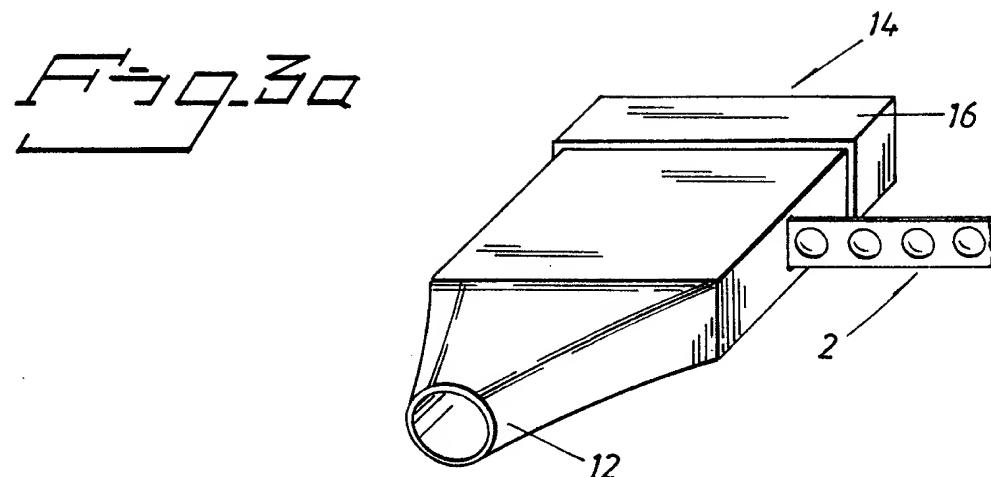


Fig. 3b

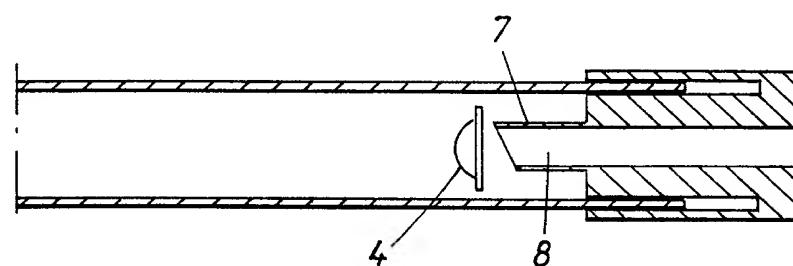
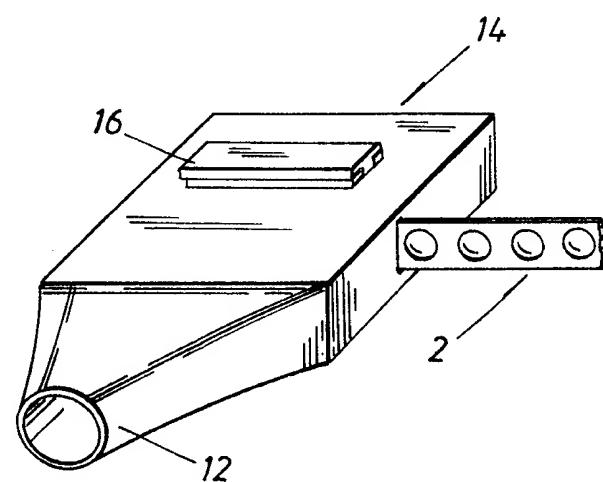


Fig. 4a



4 / 6

Fig. 4b

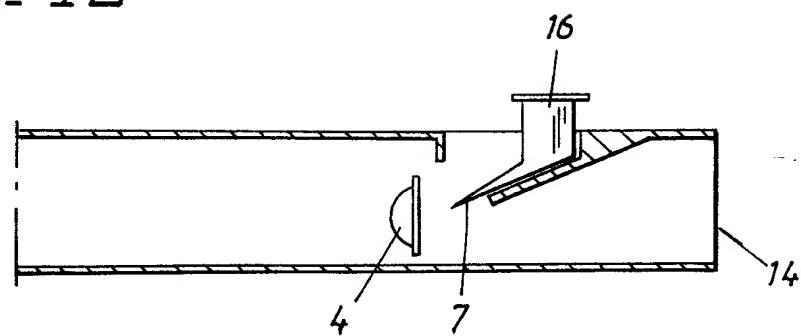


Fig. 5a

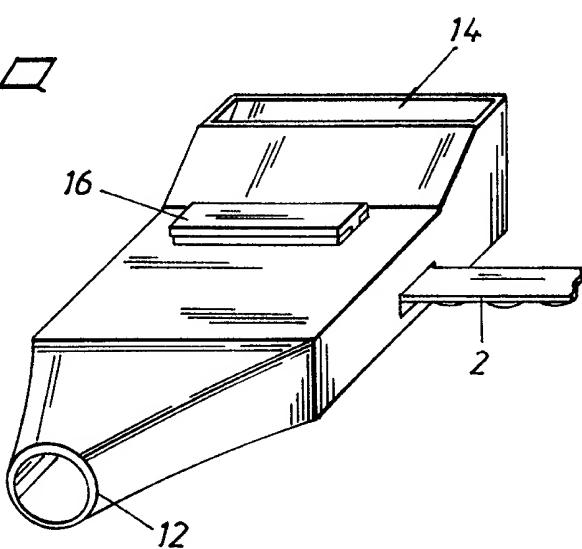
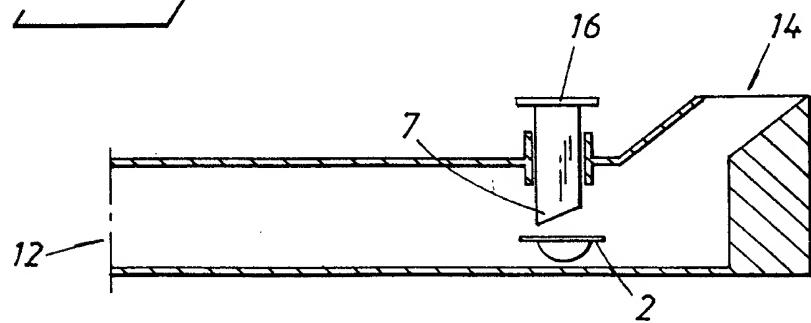
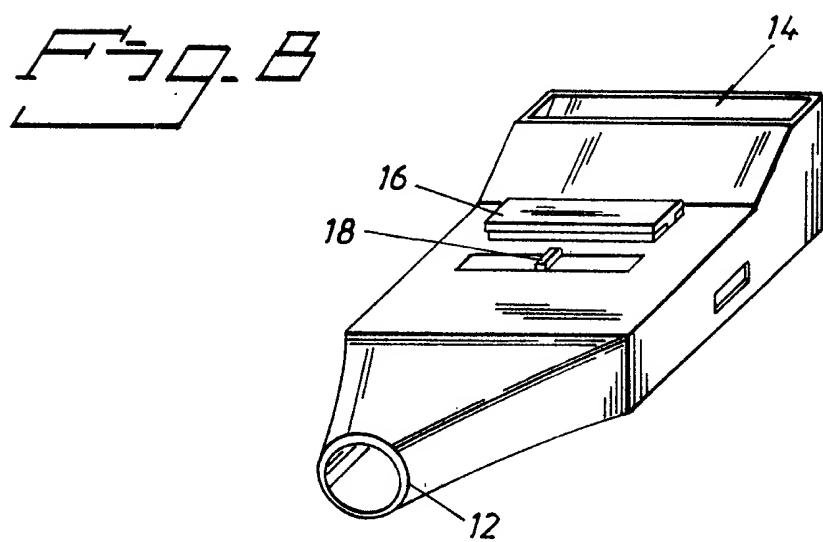
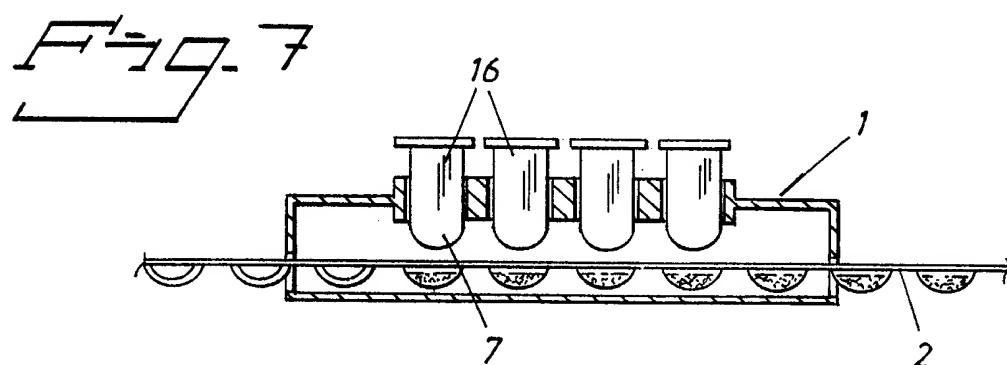
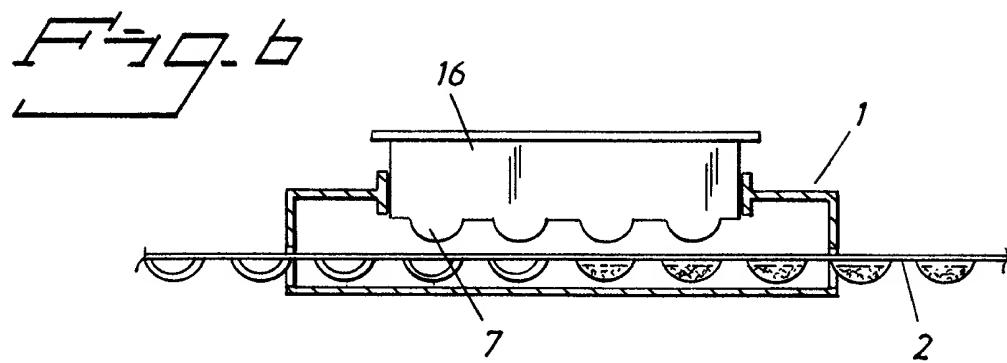


Fig. 5b



5 / 6



6 / 6

Fig. 9a

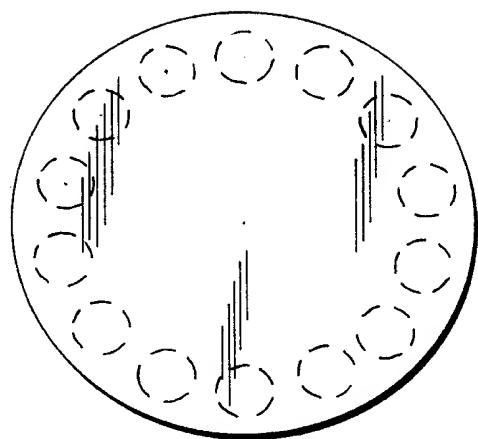
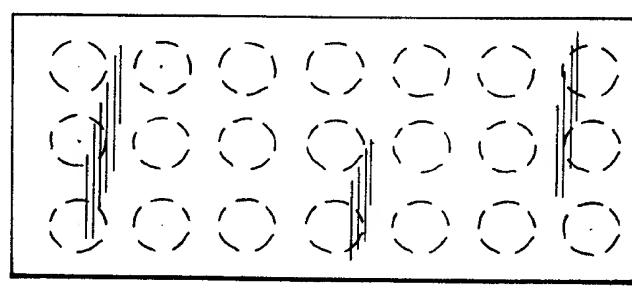


Fig. 9b



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00132

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61M 15/00, A61K 38/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 19523516 C1 (ASTA MEDICA AG), 31 October 1996 (31.10.96), column 7, line 38 - column 8, line 16, figure 5 --	1-11
A	EP 0469814 A1 (LILLY INDUSTRIES LIMITED), 5 February 1992 (05.02.92), column 3, line 30 - column 4, line 34, figure 1 --	1-11
A	US 5415162 A (R.A. CASPER ET AL), 16 May 1995 (16.05.95), figure 1, abstract --	1-11
X	US 5544646 A (L.J. LLOYD ET AL.), 13 August 1996 (13.08.96), column 17, line 19 - line 60, figure 2 --	14-17

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 June 1998

24-06-1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. + 46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Eva Selin
Telephone No. + 46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00132

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 12–13
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
The claims are not clear and concise, PCT Art. 6, according to the expression "...contains less than the clinical effective dose..." in claim 12.

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1–11 relate to a powder inhaler with means for simultaneously opening a plurality of blisters.

Claims 14–17 relate to a blister pack comprising antidiabetic medicament.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

09/06/98

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00132

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 19523516 C1	31/10/96	AU 6004396 A		05/02/97
		EP 0835148 A		15/04/98
		NO 975924 A		29/01/98
		WO 9702061 A		23/01/97
EP 0469814 A1	05/02/92	CA 2047823 A		01/02/92
		JP 5123399 A		21/05/93
US 5415162 A	16/05/95	NONE		
US 5544646 A	13/08/96	US 5660166 A		26/08/97
		US 5718222 A		17/02/98
		AU 690561 B		30/04/98
		AU 5829698 A		14/05/98
		AU 6956994 A		20/12/94
		CA 2162399 A		08/12/94
		EP 0701457 A		20/03/96
		JP 9503723 T		15/04/97
		US 5497763 A		12/03/96
		WO 9427653 A		08/12/94
		US 5709202 A		20/01/98